

Serbia

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Serbia GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Serbia could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Serbia GYTS was a school-based survey of students in 7th grade, 8th grade, and 1st year, conducted in 2003.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Serbia. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 89.8%, and the overall response rate was 89.8%. A total of 4377 students participated in the Serbia GYTS.

Prevalence

- 54.7% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 54.4%, Girls = 55.2%)
- 16.9% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 16.2%, Girls = 17.2%)
- 16.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 15.5%, Girls = 16.8%)
- 7.0% currently daily cigarette smokers (Boys = 7.1%, Girls = 6.6%)
- 6.5% currently smoke cigars (Boys = 5.6%, Girls = 7.3%)
- 31.3% ever smokers initiated smoking before age ten (Boys = 35.0%, Girls = 27.2%)
- 19.1% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year (Boys = 16.6%, Girls = 22.0%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 69.8% buy cigarettes in a store
- 92.4% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

- 97.4% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 91.3% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 76.3% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 50.0% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 70.9% have one or more parents who smoke
- 20.4% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 54.4% want to stop smoking
- 77.8% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 66.6% have ever received help to stop smoking
- 15.6% always have or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

Media and Advertising

- 84.1% saw anti-smoking media messages vs. 89.8% saw pro media messages on TV
- 52.1% saw anti messages vs. 70.7% saw pro messages on billboards
- 59.4% saw anti smoking ads vs. 80.4% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines
- 29.9% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 23.5% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 62.0% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 40.9% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 56.7% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 17% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 16% currently smoke cigarettes; 7% currently daily cigarette smokers; 7% currently smoke cigars; 19% never smokers likely to initiate smoking next year.
- ETS exposure is high – Almost all students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; Over 9 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; over 7 in 10 have parents who smoke.
- 5 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Almost 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over 5 in 10 smokers want to quit; over 2 in 10 feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning.
- 8 in 10 saw anti-smoking messages on TV vs. 9 in 10 saw pro-smoking messages on TV. 5 in 10 saw anti – smoking messages on billboards; 7 in 10 saw pro smoking messages on billboards; 7 in 10 saw anti ads in newspapers vs. 8 in 10 saw pro ads.
- Only 6 in 10 were taught in school about dangers of smoking.